

Submitter: Tom Hering

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3482

Chair Dexter, Co-Vice Chair Gamba, Co-Vice Chair Helfrich, and Committee Members:

I applaud your strong efforts to address and solve Oregon's housing and homelessness crisis. The urgency for such solutions cannot be underscored enough.

As the co-chair of the Advocacy Action team for the Interfaith Alliance on Poverty, I'm urging you to support HB 3482 to provide resources for nonprofits, faith communities, tribal communities, housing authorities and local governments in the process of developing affordable housing on their properties. Our organization is made up of 13 faith-based communities including Catholic, Jewish and Protestant churches and the advocacy committee numbers more than 20 members from those churches.

Your committee knows all too well the housing challenges we are facing. To overcome them we need to mobilize every resource available to us. Many faith communities along with other nonprofit organizations across the state are willing to build affordable housing on their properties. Several years ago, the city of Portland modified zoning policies to permit faith communities and other non-profits to undertake such projects. Some have already done so. But it hasn't been easy for them.

Passing and funding HB3482 would facilitate housing construction by faith communities and nonprofits by providing pre-development support and technical assistance. Funding the bill would help these organizations to cover the onerous start-up costs. The technical assistance through a nonprofit organization appointed under the terms of the bill would provide much needed project management assistance.

It is our mission as an organization to help alleviate and mitigate the injustices that cause homelessness and poverty in our region. I urge you to support us by passing and funding HB3482.